Remarks

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 16, 2008. The many helpful suggestions in the Office Action are highly appreciated have thereafter been incorporated in the amendments.

The applicant thanks very much Mr. Morrison for the courtesy and help of an interview with Applicant Yongyong Xu on January 12, 2009. With current amendment, reconsideration of allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 35 Rejections – 35 USC 102

3. Claims 1-3,5-10,15-19,22,25-28,60-65,67-74 and 76-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cohen et al. ('Cohen' hereinafter) (Patent Number 7,035,926).

Out of the above Claims, Claim 1, 60 and 73 are independent claims.

As per claim 1, Cohen teaches
A virtual community system managing a plurality of users and a plurality of resources accessible by said plurality of users comprising: (see abstract and background)
A community server(web server, column 2, lines 14-16) to form a persistent virtual community for each of said resources; ('to' indicates intended use;)
at least one component monitoring each of said users accessing said plurality of resources; (tracking resources users are accessing, column 2, lines 34-36)
said server associating each resource accessed by a particular user to said particular user; (user locations registered with map, column 2, lines 35-38) said server dynamically creating a persistent virtual community for each of said resources; (list of users on each web page, column 2, lines 50-52;).
said virtual community including those users accessing said each of said resource. (users accessing web page, column 2, lines 50-52)

As per claim 60, Cohen teaches
A virtual community system associating a plurality of users and a plurality

of resources accessible by said users comprising: (see abstract and background)

a plurality of virtual communities each having a virtual community area, where resources are mapped to communities by uniform resource locators (URLs), and each of said virtual communities contains community and user access information for said resources; (user locations registered with map, column 2, line35-38; list of users; column 2, lines 50-52)

a user access database containing resource access records from each of said users for each of said resources; (nodes visited by visitor, column 6, lines 54-65)

a virtual community server operable to monitor accesses from each of said users to each of said resources, said persistent virtual community server also performing additional functions including: recording accesses into said user access database; mapping each accessed resource to a virtual community with a uniform resource locator (URL); dynamically creating said persistent virtual community when a first user of said plurality of users is accessing said resource; (list of users on each web page, column 2, lines 50-52)

updating said virtual community with access from said user to said resource. (column 6, lines 52-66)

As per claim 73, Cohen teaches

A method of forming resource-based virtual communities with a plurality of users and a plurality of resources, the method comprising the steps of: (see abstract and background)

allowing each of said users to access said plurality of resources; (users accessing webpages, column 2, lines 15-20)

causing a server to monitor each user accessing a resource; (tracking resources users are accessing, column 2, lines 34-36)

causing said server to associate each resource access with a particular user accessing it; (user locations registered with map, column 2, lines 35-38)

causing said server to form a persistent community for each of said resources, said community comprising those users who have accessed a particular resource, dynamically creating said persistent virtual community when a first user of users is accessing said resource. (map listing users accessing webpage, column 50-52)

Independent Claims 1,60, 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cohen et al. ('Cohen' hereinafter) (Patent Number 7,035,926). Applicant respectfully traversed the rejection of the above claims.

Applicant has reviewed Cohen's with great care, including all the passages cited by the Office in rejecting claims. Although Cohen's invention also relates to the field of collaboration and resource tracking, there are many significant differences between Cohen's patent and this invention, as outlined below, show that Cohen failed to teach or fairly suggest all the limitations that are indicated in the claims.

Cohen disclosed a method for monitoring activity on a computer network. It includes providing a map of a group of resources, which are accessible via the computer network, and tracking access of the resources in the group by computer users, so as to identify one or more of the users with respective resources that they are accessing. An identification of the one or more users and their respectively-accessed resources is registered with the map. (abstract)

Cohen's invention defined methods for providing a map that enables users to communicate other users who are visiting other web pages in a certain group of pages without visiting those pages themselves, as well as to determine in advance which web pages they would like to visit, based on a knowledge of who else is visiting those pages at any given time (Col 2, line 11-14). In particular, a map is used to "identify the places and the links between resources" within "a selected group of mutually-linked virtual places, or other resources available via a computer network".

The Office Action argues that Cohen discloses a server and since no description of community is defined so that the server is interpreted using broadest interpretation.

The office action argues that in Cohen this mapping within the web server forms a persistent virtual community since the map is stored or persistence on the web server and a community is formed based on the users currently on a given web page.

The office action further argues that Cohen discloses web pages which store the list of users mapped to this page (column 2, lines 45-52), which meets the requirement of an independent entity.

The office action further argues that Cohen forming of the persistent virtual community is accomplished by users logging onto the web page.

The office action further argues that in Cohen there cannot be a community until there are users on the website.

Respectfully, Applicant traverses. In the context of Cohen's application, there is no clear description or role for a community server and that in this application a community server provides community services and differs from a web server which provides the resources for being accessed.

Applicant further submits that in Cohen the mapping which indicates who and how many users are currently at the web page does not form a persistent community as in the current patent application. A mapping simply indicates a list of users of current accessing members and only allows a current user to see list of other users who are also currently accessing a same web page so that a chat can be started. Cohen does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of forming a community as described by the existing claims.

Furthermore, with the amended claims, it is submitted that Cohen does not disclose a community with user generated contents, where the user generated content are created by a user to share with others. Furthermore, Cohen's method does not disclose display user generated contents to a user when he is accessing such resource.

As noted above, Cohen does not teach, suggest or discloses each and every element of the system in Claim 1, Claim 60 or method of Claim 73. applicant respectfully submits that Cohen cannot be taken to anticipate Claim 1, Claim 60 or 73, nor to render the claims obvious. Thus, the amended claim 1, 60 or 73 are believed to be patentable over Cohen and withdrawn of USC 102 (e) rejection for the claim 1, 60 or 73 will be highly appreciated.

Additionally, in view of the patentability of claim 1, 60 or 73, the remaining claims, which depend directly or indirectly from the claims 1, 60 or 73 and incorporate all of the limitations thereof, recite limitations not shown or suggested by Cohen and are believed to be patentable as well. In the interests of brevity, applicant will not argue the patentability of the dependent claims.

For these reasons, and for the reasons set forth with respect of amended independent claim 1, 60 or 73, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) Rejections

4. Claims 4,11~14,20-21,24,29-30,66 and 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. ('Cohen' hereinafter) (Patent Number 7,035,926) in view of Matthews et al. ('Matthews' hereinafter) (Publication Number 2003/0050986 Al).

5. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. ('Cohen' hereinafter) (Patent Number 7,035,926) in view of Katzman et al. ('Katzman' hereinafter) (Publication Number 2002/0046051 Al).
Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operable to track community member's activities."
However, Katzman discloses "the community server is further operable to track community member's activities" (paragraph [0082]; note: 'operable to' indicates intended use).

6. Claims 82-101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. ('Cohen' hereinafter) (Patent Number 7,035,926) in view of Dinan et al. ('Dinan' hereinafter) (Publication Number 2002/0097267 Al).

Matthews is cited in the Office Action as disclosing additional limitation for dependent claims so as that when combined with Cohen's, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Matthews discloses a system and methods for providing enhanced functionality for communication between members of community and/or groups within the community where a member of a community may access a web page and the web page may be customizable for the member. The web page may assist the member in subscribing to groups associated with the community. Subscription to a group automatically populates the member's personal calendar with events from the group's calendar. Subscription to a group automatically causes group email messages to be sent to the member.

The office action argues that it would been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of those depende claims would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by enhancing interaction between community members. This gives the user the advantage of having a channel for communication between members available.

Respectfully, Applicant submits that with the amendments made to claims 1, 60 and 73, Cohen does not teach the claimed system or methods.

Additionally, it is also not prima facie for one of ordinary skilled in the art to combine Cohen and Matthews together. As Cohen's teaches providing chat among users who are visiting web sites; It's applicable domain is for browsing websites.

Matthews, on the other hand, is talking about allowing an individual to schedule an event for a group which may involve the steps of broadcasting an

event to the group. Thus the applicable domain for Matthews is electronic calendar applications.

Furthermore, in Matthews, a member need to subscribe to a group associated with the community, subscription to a group automatically populates the member's personal calendar with events from the group's calendar. However, subscription to a group is not a pre-requisite for Cohen.

For the reasons above, one of ordinary skilled in the art may not have incentive to combine them together.

Dinan is cited in the Office Action as disclosing client side software which can be used with interactive VR communities, which are clearly detected by the installed client side tools and one of ordinary skill in the art can combine Cohen and Dinan because using the client side software would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience.

Dinan disclosed a system and method for supporting interactive communities within a graphical virtual reality on the Internet where a user selects a set of desired characteristics associated with a personality for creation of a first intelligent virtual object. The first intelligent virtual object interacts with other intelligent virtual objects within the immersive online community utilizing predetermined interface tools such that said other intelligent virtual objects receive real-time responses to stimuli initiated by said other intelligent virtual objects. The first intelligent virtual object interactively passes user generated content between said other intelligent virtual objects and said user under administrative controls. (abstract)

Respectfully, Applicant submits that with the amendments made to claims 1, 60 and 73, Cohen does not teach the amended claims.

Additionally, it is also not prima facie for one of ordinary skilled in the art to combine Cohen and Dinan together. As Cohen's teaches providing chat among users who are visiting web sites; It's applicable domain is for browsing websites.

Dinan, on the other hand, is about to provide a system that can support a completely graphical, 3-D, interactive VR community without sacrificing ease of use. It is not typically desirable for a typical web surfer to go to the VR world as they belongs to different fields in the computer industry.

Additionally, In Dinan, a user has to interact with the system through its character. In order to conduct any interactions, such as chatting or perform other actions with another user, a user has to select the appropriate tools first. Without selecting first the appropriate tools, a user cannot perform any activities in the system.

It is would not advantages for those who can communicate directly with each other to go through the indirect way.

For the reasons above, one of ordinary skilled in the art may not have incentive to combine them together.

For at least the above reasons, applicant submits that, as neither Cohen nor Matthews (or Katzman or Dinan) show or suggest the claimed system, method or step described above, it would not have been obvious to combine the references to arrive at the claimed method of amended claims. For these reasons, and the reasons set forth with respect to amended independent claim, withdrawal of those rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-30, 60-101 are in condition for allowance and request an early notice to that effect.

The applicant thanks very much for the courtesy, help and work of the Examiner Mr. Morrison. Reconsideration of the present grounds of rejection and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

In the event the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the Applicant at the telephone number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 16, 2009

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted to USPTO Patent EFS on Jan 16, 2009.

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